

Niedersachsen Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
Employment, Transport and Digitalisation



**Niedersachsen.**  
Germany's top business location.

Invest in



**Niedersachsen**





## Welcome to Niedersachsen!

Niedersachsen is located at the heart of Europe and is Germany's second largest federal state. Located immediately on the North Sea coast with excellent infrastructure and the fastest connections via road, railway, air and water to national and international markets makes Niedersachsen an interesting proposition for many businesses.

As a venue for international trade fairs, the capital of Hannover attracts professionals from across the globe. The business location is home to numerous 'global players' and 'hidden champions' and boasts a strong, thriving, internationally oriented network of small and medium-sized enterprises. Volkswagen, Europe's largest car manufacturer, is headquartered in Niedersachsen. Businesses in the food industry develop and produce high-quality foods. The Meyer Werft shipyard is a leader in Europe in building the largest and most advanced cruise liners. Nearly every passenger plane embodies cutting-edge technology from Niedersachsen.

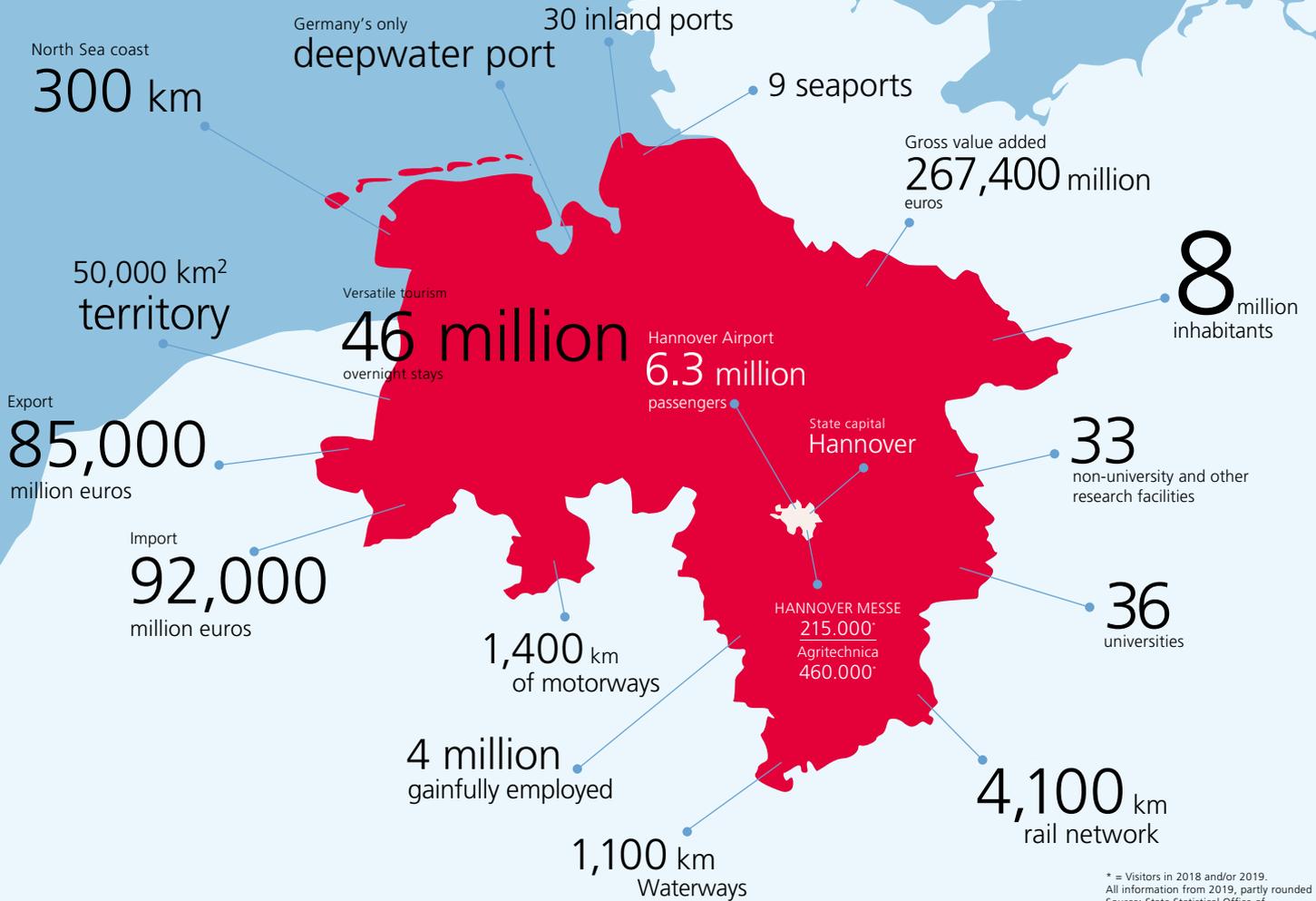
As the No. 1 energy state in Germany, Niedersachsen is the home of Enercon GmbH, one of the world's largest wind turbine manufacturers. And Niedersachsen is prepared for the future: with its focus on digitalisation, the state government is creating a framework for the digital revolution in the economy and society. The Corona virus has also created enormous challenges for Niedersachsen. However, with the start of vaccination, we are optimistic that in the not too distant future, we will be able to return to Niedersachsens previous economic successes.

Niedersachsen is not only a great place to work, it also offers an excellent quality of life. For more information, please visit [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com).

*Dr. Bernd Althusmann*

Dr Bernd Althusmann,  
Niedersachsen Minister of Economic Affairs,  
Employment, Transport and Digitalisation





\* = Visitors in 2018 and/or 2019.  
All information from 2019, partly rounded  
Source: State Statistical Office of  
Niedersachsen and Federal Employment  
Agency

# Land of Digital Economy

Niedersachsen is the federal state with a digital economy: Industry 4.0 in manufacturing, smart farming in agriculture and virtual reality. Digitalisation is the driving force for success in all sectors of the economy – the state government establishes the necessary general conditions, such as a state-wide giga network, the extension of the 5G network and bundled expertise in consultation and financial incentives through the Digital Agency Niedersachsen.



[www.digitalagentur-niedersachsen.de](http://www.digitalagentur-niedersachsen.de)



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*'Alstom is proud to have developed and built the world's first hydrogen-powered train, the "Coradia iLint", in Salzgitter and to already have it in regular service. We are grateful to the state of Niedersachsen for its support and confidence in our innovative strength.'*

**Stefan Schrank, Product Manager**  
Alstom Transport Deutschland GmbH

# Land of Mobility

Niedersachsen is home to global players such as Volkswagen, Continental and Bosch, as well as to hundreds of large and small suppliers for the auto industry. This is the home base for future-oriented technologies, such as electro-mobility, self-driving cars and hydrogen trains. Dynamic R&D makes a decisive contribution, such as at the NFF, Automotive Research Centre Niedersachsen and the Battery LabFactory in Braunschweig.



*The state cooperates with the northern German federal states and bundles the activities of the local automotive networks Automotive Nordwest e. V.*

**Automotive Industry Network for Northwest Germany**

[www.automotive-nordwest.de](http://www.automotive-nordwest.de)

**ITS mobility e. V.**

[www.its-nds.de](http://www.its-nds.de)

**Automotive Cluster for the Ems Axis Region**

[www.emsachse.de](http://www.emsachse.de)

**Automotive Industry Network for the Osnabrück Region**

[www.autos-netzwerk.de](http://www.autos-netzwerk.de)

## Automotive industry



**Europe's**  
largest  
car manufacturer



**No. 1**  
in car  
manufacturing



**More than**  
**1.1 million**  
vehicles from  
Niedersachsen



## High-flyers

Technology from Niedersachsen on board: globally leading manufacturers in the aviation industry, such as Airbus, Premium Aerotec, Broetje-Automation and Aljo have their plants here. The Braunschweig research airport plays a crucial role in exploring the future of aviation. And in Stade, the CFK Valley sets the standards for ultralight aircraft components. With the 'Niedersachsen Aviation' state initiative, the state is developing Niedersachsen as an epicentre of industrial aviation and aerospace technology by supporting the latest aviation ideas and forms.



**Niedersachsen Aviation state initiative**

[www.niedersachsen-aviation.de](http://www.niedersachsen-aviation.de)

**Braunschweig Research airport**

[www.forschungsflughafen.de](http://www.forschungsflughafen.de)

**Composites United**

<http://www.composites-united.com/cluster/cu-nord/>

**Logistikportal Niedersachsen e. V.**

[www.logistikportal-niedersachsen.de](http://www.logistikportal-niedersachsen.de)

**Niedersachsen test field**

[www.testfeld-nds.de](http://www.testfeld-nds.de)



With its 24/7 operation, Hannover Airport offers ideal international connections. Likewise, the Airport Business Park and the airfreight centre, the TuiFly carrier and MTU Maintenance contribute to its success with maintenance and repair services.

## Well planned

Eight freight transport centres and numerous intermodal terminals support the logistics industry of Niedersachsen with a focus on the automotive, health, food, projects and green logistics sectors.

## A mobile future

With the Coradia iLint, Alstom has built the world's first passenger train to run on a hydrogen fuel cell, two of which have been in regular operation in Niedersachsen since 2018. The state government and enterprises are committed to advancing electromobility.

Digital data networking allows for the latest traffic management systems, self-driving cars and car-to-car communication. The Niedersachsen test field for automated and inter-connected mobility allows key partners in the automotive sector to test new vehicle concepts in realistic conditions.



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www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/  
mobility



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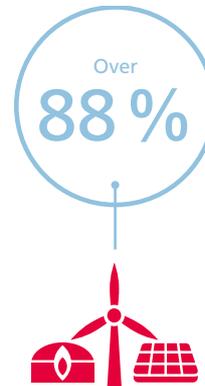
*'By creating high-quality industrial employment in the offshore wind industry, Cuxhaven is making an important contribution towards accelerating the innovation and qualification-driven structural transformation of the region and the energy transition in Germany.'*

**Hilke von der Reith,**  
Offshore Base, Cuxhaven

# Land of Energy

Niedersachsen is the driving force of the energy transition in Germany. Wind energy, biomass and solar plants cover around 60 per cent of the power consumption in the state. Established networks and research are already resolving the issues of tomorrow. In the 'enera project', for example, digital energy systems are tested in live mode.

The advantages of the location include the excellent potential of renewable energies, which allows for carbon-free production. The combination of various sectors offers great opportunities in terms of economic opportunities. Pioneering developments, such as the use of hydrogen in mobility and industry, are already being implemented here, such as in the hydrogen train by Alstom and the drive system for refuse collection vehicles by Faun.



of the electricity consumption in Niedersachsen from wind energy, biomass- and solar plants





**Offshore Base Cuxhaven**  
[www.offshore-basis.de](http://www.offshore-basis.de)

**ForWind Centre for Wind  
Energy Research**  
[www.forwind.de/en/](http://www.forwind.de/en/)

**Offshore Wind Energy  
Foundation**  
[www.offshore-stiftung.de/en](http://www.offshore-stiftung.de/en)

## No. 1 wind energy country

With global leaders such as Enercon in plant engineering, GE Wind Energy in turbine production, and the production facilities of Siemens Gamesa, Niedersachsen is the frontrunner in Germany in the field of wind energy.

The offshore industry, with its production, supply and utilities companies, is firmly established along the coastline of Niedersachsen. The German Offshore Industry Centre in Cuxhaven hosts the production of offshore wind turbines by Siemens Gamesa close to the waterline. 'ForWind' bundles cutting-edge, international research in wind energy.





**Hydrogen in Niedersachsen**  
[www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/hydrogen](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/hydrogen)

**EFZN Energy Research Centre Niedersachsen**  
[www.efzn.de/en/international](http://www.efzn.de/en/international)

**Institute for Solar Energy Research**  
[www.isfh.de/en/](http://www.isfh.de/en/)

**DLR German Aerospace Centre, Institute of Networked Energy Systems**  
[www.dlr.de/ve/en/](http://www.dlr.de/ve/en/)

## Rich and natural

Niedersachsen has even more to offer: the most advanced plants are used to transform biomass into energy. The high level of exploration know-how of international companies in the 'Drilling Valley' close to Celle is internationally in demand, increasingly also in the field of geothermal energy.

More than 31 per cent of petroleum generated in Germany and 97 per cent of the natural gas originate from Niedersachsen. The existing underground storage facilities today form the backbone of the conventional energy supply in Germany and can contribute in future towards compensating for fluctuations in the supply of renewable energies.

With the electricity produced in Niedersachsen in one year from renewable energies, Niedersachsen's households can be supplied



**3N Centre of Excellence**  
[www.3-n.info](http://www.3-n.info)

**GeoEnergy Celle e.V.**  
[www.geoenergy-celle.de](http://www.geoenergy-celle.de)

**Geosciences Centre of Hannover**  
[www.geozentrum-hannover.de](http://www.geozentrum-hannover.de)



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*'The coast of Niedersachsen presents a special dynamic and holds great potential for the future. The maritime sector in Niedersachsen offers excellent general conditions and clear prospects for successful company growth.'*

**Thomas Saß, Sales Manager**  
Fr. Fassmer GmbH & Co. KG

# Land of Maritime Industry

When it comes to water, Niedersachsen is top notch. The direct location on the North Sea, specialised ports, the only deepwater port in Germany, and the trimodal traffic connection are particularly important location benefits. Internationally renowned companies and

facilities for shipbuilding, shipping, the port industry, maritime technology and maritime research and training are based here. In addition, digitalisation and offshore industry offer great potential for developing offshore wind energy.

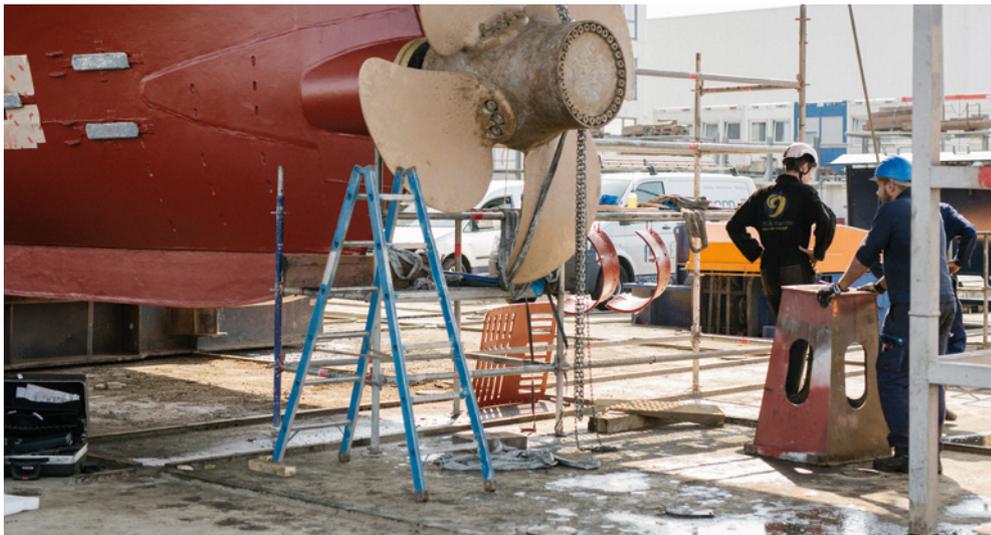
300  
kilometres of North  
Sea coastline



9  
large seaports



45,000  
port-related  
employees





### Seaports of Niedersachsen

[www.seaports.de/en](http://www.seaports.de/en)

### Niedersachsen Ports

[www.niedersachsenports.de/en](http://www.niedersachsenports.de/en)

### Wilhelmshaven Container Terminal

[www.jadeweserport.de](http://www.jadeweserport.de)

### Maritime Cluster Northern Germany

[www.maritimes-cluster.de/en](http://www.maritimes-cluster.de/en)

## Specialised ports

The seaports of Niedersachsen have different focal points. Together, they offer an excellent connection to the international trade flows for the handling of containers and vehicles, agricultural and forestry products, steel products, raw materials as well as project cargo, wind turbine generators and aircraft components. At the Wilhelmshaven Container Terminal, which is deep enough to service seagoing vessels, container ships of any size can be processed irrespective of the tide and requiring only short passages through inland waterways.

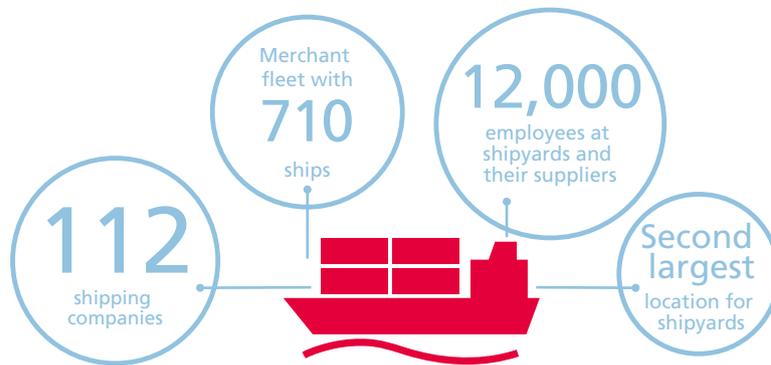


## Ships and the sea

A large number of shipping companies and shipyards are headquartered in Niedersachsen. The region is home to excellent educational and continuous training facilities for nautical science and shipbuilding, whether for container or bulk ships or tankers. A special feature is the nautical navigation simulator with a 270° projection system in Leer, which can be used to train the navigation of heavy-cargo vessels to special and passenger ships.

## Mega Offshore

The German Offshore Industry Centre in Cuxhaven offers optimal conditions for the construction and loading of offshore installations directly on the shores of the North Sea. Other specialist ports along the coast and on the Elb, Weser and Ems rivers are linked to trimodal traffic and complement the offshore wind industry. Tailored commercial spaces and an infrastructure adapted to heavy loads are already available.



Niedersachsen is an important location for shipbuilding in Germany. The local shipyards focus particularly on building technically demanding and innovative special vessels. Niedersachsen plays a leading role especially in building cruise liners and luxury yachts.



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[www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/maritim](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/maritim)



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*‘For us, Niedersachsen is our home, the beating heart of Ottobock. Our company is deeply rooted in Duderstadt and the southern region of Niedersachsen. The special location in the centre of Germany is a good starting point for company activities – from here, we shape our digital future across the world.’*

**Philipp Schulte-Noelle, CEO**  
Ottobock SE & Co. KGaA

# Land of Life Sciences

With 'red biotechnology' and the production of cognate products for therapy and diagnostics, as well as of vaccines, Niedersachsen is one of the most in-demand regions of Germany. Niedersachsen ranks among the

TOP 6 locations for clinical trials. Digitalisation is also evident in all areas – from laboratory automation to big data. Intelligent laboratories of the future are being designed and tested in the smartLAB.



## All about health

The global market leader in orthopaedic technology, Ottobock and NIFE – Niedersachsen Centre for Biomedical Engineering, Implant Research and Development – are household names in medical technology. One in every seven employees in Niedersachsen works in the healthcare sector. The necessary skills are taught by leading educational institutions in Germany, such as the Hannover Medical School (MHH) in transplant medicine and the University of Göttingen in the field of neurosciences and cardiovascular diseases.

## Strong position

In the future-oriented field of biologising, Niedersachsen boasts excellent scientific expertise. The Leibniz University Hannover (LUH), for example, has sensor-controlled bioreactors. The German Institute of Food Technology (DIL) is well-known for its excellent research in foodstuff bioengineering. Major international companies, as well as numerous innovative small and medium-sized enterprises and start-up companies contribute to forming an excellent location for life sciences.



## Nobel Prize Winners

Göttingen is the academic base of the 2014 Nobel Prize winner Stefan Hell, the inventor of STED microscopy, a revolution in light microscopy. New optical technologies and high-resolution microscopy technology for minute structures and nerve cells at the Cluster of Excellency for NMPB – Nanoscale Microscopy and Molecular Physiology of the Brain – are laying the foundation for new diagnostics and therapies, for example in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and schizophrenia.



**Life Sciences Network Niedersachsen**  
[www.bioregion.de](http://www.bioregion.de)

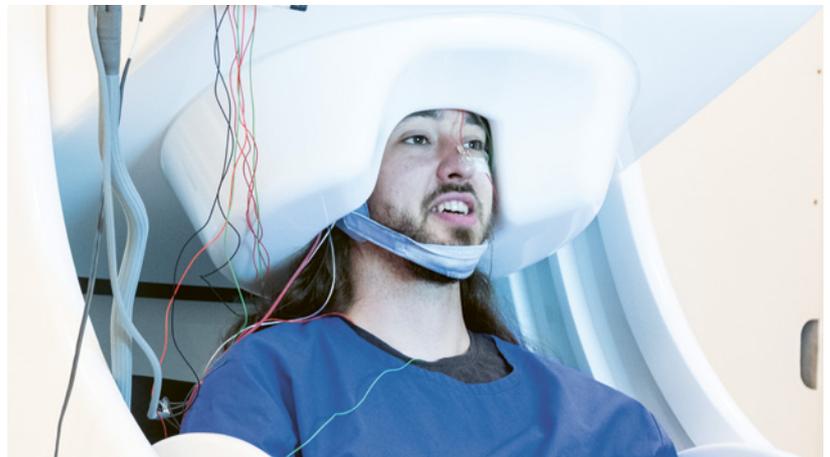
**TRAIN**  
[www.translationsallianz.de](http://www.translationsallianz.de)

**Digital Health**  
[www.digitalagentur-niedersachsen.de](http://www.digitalagentur-niedersachsen.de)

**PhotonicNet**  
[www.photonicnet.de](http://www.photonicnet.de)

## Heard around the world

About 80 per cent of all hearing aids sold worldwide contain technology made in Niedersachsen. The highest number of cochlear implants worldwide are carried out at the MHH. Hearing4all in Hannover and Oldenburg is the leading cluster in the field of hearing research. International companies such as Cochlear, Med-el, Advanced Bionics, Sennheiser and Kind Hörgeräte are headquartered here. Innovative research projects, such as the optogenetic development of a human hearing aid, are pursued in Niedersachsen.



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[www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/lifesciences](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/lifesciences)

A man wearing a blue cap, glasses, and a white face mask is working in a factory. He is wearing a white lab coat over a white shirt and a blue patterned tie. The lab coat has a name tag that reads "R. Kühl". He is looking down at a green tray containing a large amount of yellow and white granular material, possibly a food product. The background shows industrial machinery and bright lights.

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*'As a family business, we are firmly rooted in Lüneburg. The attractive location combines excellent infrastructure services with a broad range of facilities and services to suit everyone. This is why the region is able to offer such a high quality of life for our skilled professionals, and we are well connected thanks to the proximity to Hamburg and Hannover.'*

**Rüdiger Kühl, Management Board**  
DE-VAU-GE Gesundheitswerk  
Deutschland GmbH

# Land of Food Industry

Using high-tech and digital methods, Niedersachsen is a leader in Germany in producing top-quality, safe food. Numerous small and medium-sized enterprises cover the entire value chain.

Innovative agritech manufacturers of world renown decisively shape Niedersachsen's second-largest sector through digitalisation, concepts and technologies such as Farming 4.0, cloud systems, GPS and big data.

403,000  
employees in  
the field of  
agribusiness



€ 31,5  
billion  
turnover in  
the food industry



More than  
135  
countries import  
agricultural  
machinery made in  
Niedersachsen



## Rich harvest

Rich, fertile soils ensure that Niedersachsen has earned a top spot in the food industry. Almost every second German potato is grown in Niedersachsen. This has led to a closely intertwined economy in the field of food and animal feed production, a traditionally highly export-oriented sector.

## Leading in Germany

Every third egg and two-thirds of all cockerels originate from Niedersachsen. The dairy sector also plays an important role. Refinement in processing is at the core. The strongest sector in the industry is the production of meat products.



27% of sugar beet  
46% of potatoes



66% of blueberries  
14% of all raspberries produced



17% of pears



## Excellent research

The universities of Braunschweig, Göttingen and Hannover, as well as the universities of applied sciences of Hannover and Osnabrück, with their respective faculties and institutes for agricultural and food sciences, are charting the path towards a healthy and sustainable food industry. The German Institute for Food Technology (DIL) is well known for its research in product and food development as well as in food analytics.



**LI food – Agrifood state initiative of Niedersachsen**  
[www.li-food.de](http://www.li-food.de)

**Marketing Company of the Agricultural and Food Industry of Niedersachsen**  
[www.mg-niedersachsen.de](http://www.mg-niedersachsen.de)

**German Institute of Food Technology**  
[www.dil-ev.de](http://www.dil-ev.de)



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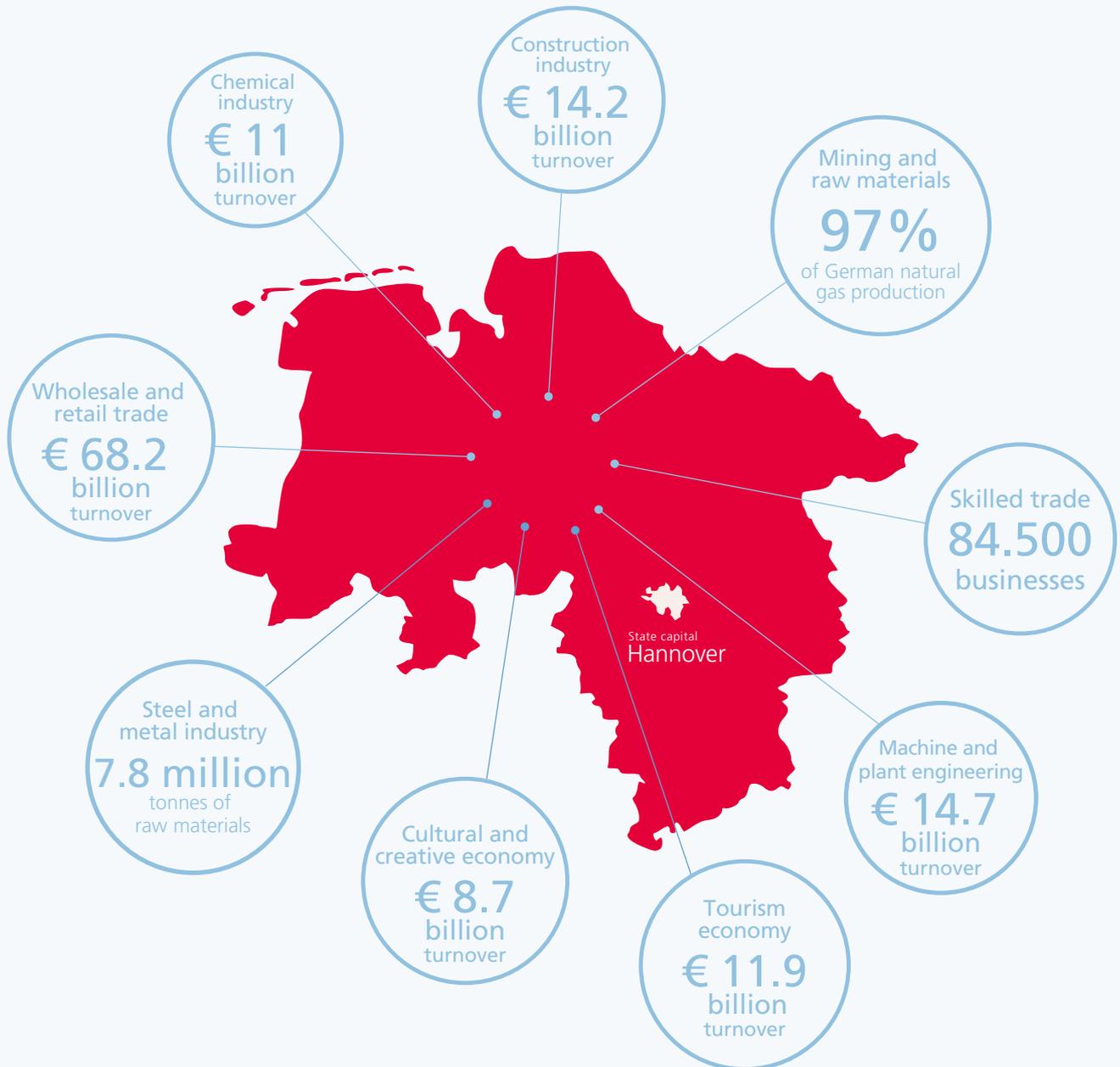
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... and much more



# Land of Tourism

Niedersachsen is a great place to live and work. Attractive travel destinations, such as the North Sea coast, the East Frisian islands, the Lüneburger Heide and the Harz mountain range draw tourists in great numbers. Niedersachsen is perfect for nature and active holidays and city breaks.

The tourism sector achieves record results, as shown by more than 46 million overnight stays each year.



[www.reiseland-niedersachsen.de](http://www.reiseland-niedersachsen.de)



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*'Niedersachsen's government provides crucial support for our concept, and as an attractive start-up hub, Hannover offers everything that we need to successfully develop and grow our company!'*

**Dr. Julian Hensolt, Co-Founder & CEO**  
Dresslife

# Land of Talents

## Patents and talents

Niedersachsen has a long-standing tradition of renowned research and innovative high-tech developments. This is guaranteed by the excellent universities, colleges and other educational institutions. Together with the proven quality of the dual training system, they lay the foundation for skilled professionals, who excel at their work with strong knowledge and experience.

 [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/talents](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/talents)

## Incentivising business

NBank, Niedersachsen's investment and funding bank, offers numerous opportunities for promoting and funding start-ups, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises.

 [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/incentivising](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/incentivising)

## Start-ups and establishing a business

The dynamic economic environment of Niedersachsen is conducive to many successful business ideas. The state supports business founders with special funding programmes, facilities for creativity, coaching at the start-up centres and fruitful networking activities.

 [www.startup.nds.de](http://www.startup.nds.de)

## Networks

The Niedersachsen Innovation Centre supports Niedersachsen's businesses in developing innovations. It provides stimuli for developing and spreading future-oriented key technologies, assists in the transfer of technology and organises sector-specific networks.

 [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/networks](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/networks)



# Our services

## Your business location in Niedersachsen

We provide all important regional and sector-specific information you need for your decision to settle your business in Niedersachsen, free of charge and from a single source:

 [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/investmentpromotion](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/investmentpromotion)



Information



Finding your location



Support in realising your investment



Contacts and networks

## Successful exports

As a business located in Niedersachsen, you can benefit from numerous opportunities for establishing and developing your export business:

 [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/export](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com/export)



Delegation trips



Representatives abroad



Niedersachsen's Foreign Trade Meet/Award, trade fair funding



International consulting events

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 [www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com)

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Ricardo Wiesinger; 18 Ottobock SE & Co. KGaA;  
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im Jahre 2019



[www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com](http://www.invest-in-niedersachsen.com)

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